

Washington State Conservation Commission Regular Meeting

**FINAL MINUTES**

Lacey, Washington  
January 21, 2010

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The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/WSCC) met in regular session on January 21, 2010 in Lacey, Washington. Commissioner Bahrych called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

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**ATTENDEES**

Lynn Bahrych, Chair  
Fred Colvin, Vice Chair  
Jim Peters, Member  
Lynn Brown, Member  
Tracy Eriksen, Member  
Josh Baldi, Member  
Lee Faulconer, Member  
John Winder, Member

**COMMISSION STAFF**

Mark Clark, Executive Director  
Ron Shultz, Policy Director  
Tom Salzer, Technical Services Manager  
Debbie Becker, Financial Services Manager  
Stu Trefry, District Operations &  
Outreach Services Manager  
Megan Finkenbinder, Program Specialist  
Ray Ledgerwood, Program Coordinator

**PARTNERS REPRESENTED DURING THIS MEETING:**

John Larson, Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)  
Roylene Rides-at-the-Door, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Don Larsen, Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)  
Peter Bautista, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

**GUESTS:**

John Keatley, Cowlitz CD  
Craig Nelson, Okanogan CD  
Carolyn Kelly, Skagit CD

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**Consent Agenda**

**Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Eriksen seconded the motion to approve the December 3, 2009 regular Business Meeting minutes and the November 24, 2009 Special Meeting minutes. Motion adopted.**

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**Ted Sturdevant, Executive Director, Department of Ecology**

Director Ted Sturdevant shared with Commissioners the Department of Ecology's priorities. Those include; Climate Change, Puget Sound and the point vs. non point pollution, Water Resources, Toxics reductions and the continued efforts to clean up the Hanford site. There was also brief discussion surrounding the Ecology BMP Manual.

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**Stephanie Harrington, Assistant Dean, Planning and Initiatives, UW College of the Environment**

Stephanie Harrington shared with the Commission information regarding the newly formed UW College of the Environment. The UW College of the Environment is now the fourth largest college at the UW, they expect to collaborate with WSU and Oregon State University to develop a center dedicated to climate adaptation where eventually there will be at least eight centers across the country. She is hoping that the Pacific Northwest will be selected as an area for one of the first centers to be built.

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**WACD Budget Development & Allocation**

Commissioner Faulconer who served as the lead on the Budget subcommittee discussed the budget development and allocation process and reviewed the recommendations presented. The discussion mainly centered around the quality criteria and the requirements that districts must meet, the role of the WSCC members and regional managers, area meetings for presentations, and the steps of the process. Commissioners requested that staff work with WACD on the district budget request system, instructions, and details of the process.

**Commissioner Colvin moved to approve item 1 from the CC budget, allocation committee report, Commissioner Brown seconded.**

**Motion adopted.**

**Commissioner Brown moved that jointly, both the Regional Manager and WACD representative will determine if quality criteria 1 and 2 are met by each CD, as referenced in the subject report, Commissioner Eriksen seconded.**

**Motion adopted.**

**Commissioner Brown moved that the district's budget proposals address all eight criteria from the subject report plus one additional. The additional criteria would "describe the environmental benefits of the program or project". The budget allocation to districts would be based on an evaluation by the Commission of each district's budget proposal based on these nine criteria in combination with a pro rata amount of funds available. (The allocation will be based upon decisions of: 1. The size of each of the three funding sources referenced in the subject committee report and 2. The amount each CD is allocated from each of the three funding sources), Commissioner Eriksen seconded.**

**Motion adopted.**

**Commissioner Brown moved to have the elected Commission Member and the Regional Manager represent the Conservation Commission at the appropriate area budget meetings as referenced in the subject report. The district budget proposals are to be submitted directly to the Commission, Commissioner Colvin seconded.**

**Motion adopted.**

### **Program/Field Operations**

- **Tier 4 Districts**

**Commissioner Colvin moved to allocate the remaining funds to the Cowlitz Conservation District, the district would then have received 100% of the funds, Commissioner Brown seconded.**

**Motion adopted.**

**Commissioner Colvin moved to allocate the remaining funds to the Wahkiakum Conservation District, the district would then have received 100% of the funds, Commissioner Herron seconded.**

**Motion adopted.**

**Commissioner Brown moved to allocate the remaining funds to the South Yakima Conservation District, the district would then have received 100% of the funds, Commissioner Eriksen seconded.**

**Motion adopted.**

- **Districts in Good Standing Checklist**

**Commissioner Colvin moved to approve the Districts in Good Standing checklist, Commissioner Eriksen seconded.**

**Motion adopted.**

**Commissioner Eriksen moved that a committee be appointed to review the District in Good Standing process. The committee would include, Commissioner Brown, Eriksen, Colvin, WACD Executive Director, John Larson and Commission staff, Commissioner Herron seconded.**

**Motion adopted.**

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### **Template approval for conservation plan**

Commissioners were given a presentation on the Conservation planning format. This format includes a more consistent approach to conservation planning.

**Commissioner Eriksen moved to approve the template for the Livestock Conservation plan, Commissioner Faulconer seconded.**

**Motion adopted.**

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### **OFP Report and Indicators Approval**

**Commissioner Brown moved to accept the OFP report, Commissioner Eriksen seconded.**

**Motion adopted.**

**Commissioner Eriksen moved to accept and continue with the maintenance of the indicators, Commissioner Colvin seconded.**

**Motion adopted.**

**Commissioner Colvin moved that we commend the work of the OFP Task Force on their work in 2009, Commissioner Eriksen seconded.**

**Motion adopted.**

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### **Legal/Technical Services**

- **Mason CD Update**

1:30 p.m. – Commissioners went into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation as allowed by RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

2:15 p.m. – General meeting was resumed.

- **Records Retention Update**

Assistant Attorney General, Sharonne O'Shea gave a presentation on records retention policies and public records requests.

- **Elections Update**

Tom Salzer, Commission staff, reported that there have been three elections already held this year. Voter turnout this year for the three elections already held has improved.

- **Okanogan CD application for appointment**

**Commissioner Brown moved to appoint Jerry Asmussen to the Okanogan Conservation District Board of Supervisors, Commission Eriksen seconded.**

**Motion adopted.**

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### **Finance**

Debbie Becker, Commission staff, provided a comprehensive presentation on the current status of the Conservation Commissions financials as well as a historical review of funding to the district's covering the period 1997 through 2009.

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### **Ecology BMP Manual**

- **Academic Peer Review**

Commissioner Winder discussed perhaps moving the BMP manual through a scientific review by individuals that were scholarly in the area of riparian/livestock interaction.

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### **Commission Operations**

- **Spokane County letter re: Assessment Resolution**

This letter was provided in the Commission packets.

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### **Chair's Comments**

- **Election of Chair & Vice Chair**

**Commissioner Brown moved that the Commission elect Commissioner Bahrych as Chair and Commissioner Colvin as Vice-Chair, Commissioner Eriksen seconded.**

**Motion adopted.**

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### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Bahrych adjourned the meeting at 4:27 p.m.